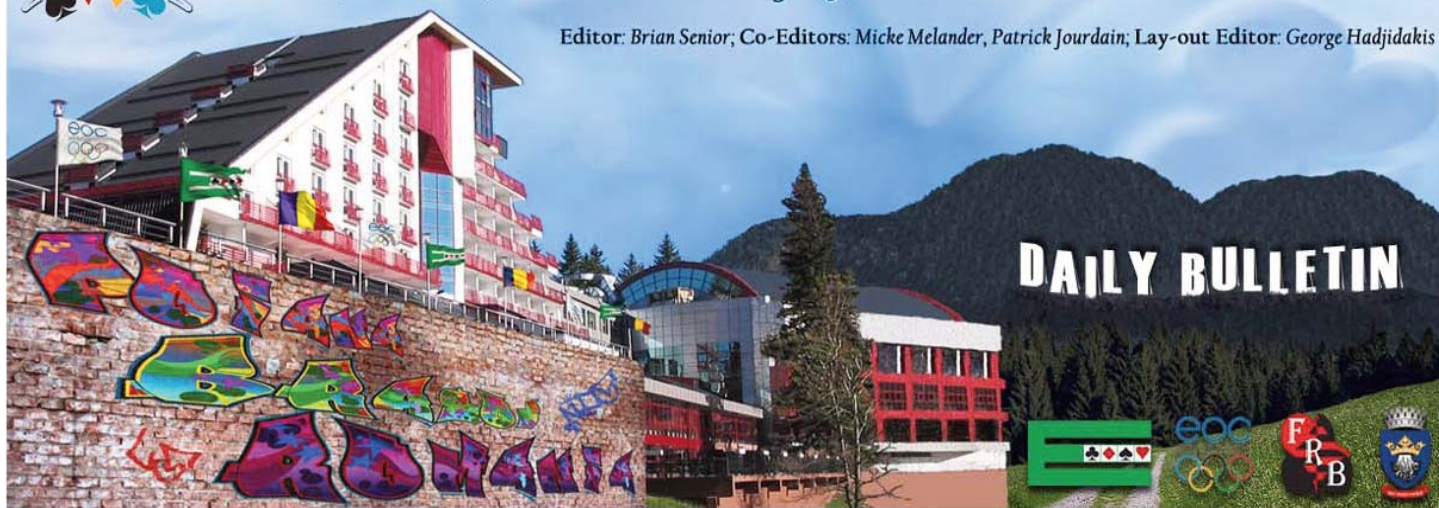


# 22<sup>nd</sup> EUROPEAN YOUTH BRIDGE TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS



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Issue No. 6

Tuesday, 14 July 2009

## Poland Wins Girls



*Poland Under 26 Girls Teams Gold Medal*



*France Under 26 Girls Teams Silver Medal*



*Netherlands Under 26 Girls Teams Bronze Medal*



**UNDER 26 OPEN TEAMS****TODAY'S PROGRAM****ROUND 12**

1	IRELAND	ISRAEL
2	TURKEY	AUSTRIA
3	SWEDEN	ITALY
4	NORWAY	HUNGARY
5	POLAND	RUSSIA
6	ENGLAND	ROMANIA
7	LATVIA	BYE
8	NETHERLANDS	FINLAND
9	GERMANY	GREECE
10	BULGARIA	CZECH REP.
11	DENMARK	CROATIA
12	BELGIUM	FRANCE

**ROUND 13**

1	ISRAEL	TURKEY
2	AUSTRIA	SWEDEN
3	ITALY	NORWAY
4	HUNGARY	POLAND
5	RUSSIA	ENGLAND
6	ROMANIA	LATVIA
7	IRELAND	NETHERLANDS
8	FINLAND	GERMANY
9	GREECE	BULGARIA
10	CZECH REP.	DENMARK
11	CROATIA	BELGIUM
12	FRANCE	BYE

**ROUND 14**

1	SWEDEN	ISRAEL
2	NORWAY	AUSTRIA
3	POLAND	ITALY
4	ENGLAND	HUNGARY
5	LATVIA	RUSSIA
6	ROMANIA	BYE
7	NETHERLANDS	TURKEY
8	GERMANY	IRELAND
9	BULGARIA	FINLAND
10	DENMARK	GREECE
11	BELGIUM	CZECH REP.
12	FRANCE	CROATIA

**UNDER 26 GIRLS TEAMS****RESULTS****ROUND 13**

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	ENGLAND HUNGARY	14 - 79	3 - 25
2	CZECH REP. GERMANY	60 - 24	22 - 8
3	SWEDEN ROMANIA	95 - 36	25 - 4
4	NORWAY ITALY	52 - 39	18 - 12
5	NETHERLANDS TURKEY	50 - 51	15 - 15
6	FRANCE POLAND	32 - 55	10 - 20
7	DENMARK ESTONIA	32 - 47	12 - 18

**UNDER 26 GIRLS TEAMS****FINAL RANKING**

<b>1</b>	<b>POLAND</b>	<b>245</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>FRANCE</b>	<b>241</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>NETHERLANDS</b>	<b>222</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>SWEDEN</b>	<b>219</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>DENMARK</b>	<b>218</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>ESTONIA</b>	<b>207</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>CZECH REPUBLIC</b>	<b>206</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>HUNGARY</b>	<b>200</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>GERMANY</b>	<b>199</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>NORWAY</b>	<b>181</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>ITALY</b>	<b>172</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>ENGLAND</b>	<b>145</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>TURKEY</b>	<b>134</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>ROMANIA</b>	<b>82</b>

**Summer Holidays**

I saw on the front page of Bulletin 5 a suggestion from the editor: 'Before leaving Poiana Brasov, don't forget to book next year's summer holidays in sunny Romania'. If you didn't do so as yet, may I dare to make another suggestion: 'Try sunny England as an alternative'. Marius Georgescu

(Excellent suggestion: next year, the sun will be seen in England during the afternoon of June 22nd – don't miss it! Ed.)

**UNDER 21 OPEN TEAMS****RESULTS****ROUND 1**

Match		IMP's	VP's
1	NORWAY ISRAEL	31 - 36	14 - 16
2	ENGLAND ITALY	70 - 50	19 - 11
3	ROMANIA POLAND	11 - 73	3 - 25
4	FRANCE TURKEY	51 - 13	23 - 7
5	HUNGARY DENMARK	88 - 17	25 - 2
6	GERMANY NETHERLANDS	51 - 32	19 - 11
7	CZECH REP. SWEDEN	38 - 54	12 - 18

**UNDER 21 OPEN TEAMS****RANKING AFTER ROUND 1**

1	HUNGARY	25
	POLAND	25
3	FRANCE	23
4	ENGLAND	19
	GERMANY	19
6	SWEDEN	18
7	ISRAEL	16
8	NORWAY	14
9	CZECH REPUBLIC	12
10	ITALY	11
	NETHERLANDS	11
12	TURKEY	7
13	ROMANIA	3
14	DENMARK	2

**Today's Vugraph Matches (also on BBO)**

10.00 Poland v Russia (U-26)

14.00 Italy v Norway (U-26)

17.30 Sweden v Israel (U-26)

**Additional BBO Matches**

10.00 Sweden v Italy (U-26)

14.00 Israel v Turkey (U-26)

17.30 Poland v Italy (U-26)

**UNDER 21 OPEN TEAMS****TODAY'S PROGRAM****ROUND 2**

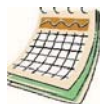
1	SWEDEN	ENGLAND
2	NORWAY	ROMANIA
3	ISRAEL	FRANCE
4	ITALY	HUNGARY
5	POLAND	GERMANY
6	TURKEY	CZECH REP.
7	DENMARK	NETHERLANDS

**ROUND 3**

1	SWEDEN	NORWAY
2	ISRAEL	ENGLAND
3	ITALY	ROMANIA
4	POLAND	FRANCE
5	TURKEY	HUNGARY
6	DENMARK	GERMANY
7	NETHERLANDS	CZECH REP.

**ROUND 4**

1	SWEDEN	POLAND
2	TURKEY	ITALY
3	DENMARK	ISRAEL
4	NETHERLANDS	NORWAY
5	CZECH REP.	ENGLAND
6	GERMANY	ROMANIA
7	HUNGARY	FRANCE

**Today's Schedule**

10.00 Under 26 Open Teams (12th Round)

14.00 Under 26 Open Teams (13th Round)

17.30 Under 26 Open Teams (14th Round)

10.00 Under 21 Open Teams (2nd Round)

14.00 Under 21 Open Teams (3rd Round)

17.30 Under 21 Open Teams (4th Round)

# UNDER 26 OPEN TEAMS ROUND 8



**FRANCE**

v

**NETHERLANDS**



The match between two teams towards the top of the table did not disappoint. The deals were especially interesting and the standard of bridge the highest I have seen on Vugraph this tournament.

However, the first deal was a missed opportunity at both tables:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ 9 8 7 ♥ Q J 10 ♦ K Q 6 ♣ J 8 7 4		♠ J 4 3 2 ♥ A K ♦ J 10 9 8 2 ♣ Q 2
♠ A Q 10 6 ♥ 7 4 ♦ A 7 5 ♣ 10 6 5 3		
	♠ K 5 ♥ 9 8 6 5 3 2 ♦ 4 3 ♣ A K 9	

Both Wests ended up in 3♠, having reached there somewhat under their own steam. Both Norths led a heart.

Verbeek started well when he took the trump finesse, the jack being covered all round. The winning solution is easy now; draw only one more trump then give up two diamonds and now you can take two club ruffs in dummy or establish diamonds at your leisure. In fact, declarer played for overtricks by drawing the third trump then ducking a



Thomas Bessis, France

club. When he took two diamond finesses, a third club locked him in dummy with the diamonds blocked. He had to lose the fourth club for down one.

Bessis won the heart lead and ran the diamond jack as South gave true count. Back came a club and South cashed both high clubs then led a second diamond. Declarer now guessed correctly to go up with the ace and rely on the spade finesse, but fell from grace when he exited with a third diamond instead of crossing to the remaining top heart to take the trump finesse. Retribution was swift! North won the diamond king as Michielsen pitched her last club, to take an over-ruff of dummy on the third club for the setting trick.

France picked up a partscore on the next deal when Drijver doubled a 3NT contract and persuaded Bessis to run to a making partscore (mind you, 3NT might conceivably have made without the double – what would you lead with:

♠ K J 10 8 6 5 2
♥ 9
♦ J
♣ K 6 5 3

If you jump to 3♠ over 1♦ and the auction continues double on your left, 3NT on your right? You had better lead a black card; a heart lead lets it through in embarrassing fashion, while partner has ♠Q and ♣AJ2 and your side is cold for 4♠!

The next deal saw the Dutch exploit the vagaries of the difference in no-trump ranges to the maximum.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ K 10 7 6 5 ♥ 5 4 ♦ J 8 ♣ Q 10 9 5		♠ A J 8 2 ♥ ♦ A 9 7 6 3 2 ♣ A 3 2	♠ 9 4 ♥ K Q 8 7 6 3 2 ♦ Q 5 ♣ 7 6
		♠ Q 3 ♥ A J 10 9 ♦ K 10 4 ♣ K J 8 4	

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Drijver	Volcker	Michielsen
Pass	2♣	Pass	INT
Pass	3♦	Pass	2♥
Pass	4♣	Pass	3NT
Pass	4♥	Pass	4♦
Pass	6♦	All Pass	5♣

West Verbeek	North Lhuissier	East Molenaar	South Robert
Pass	1♦	2♥	1♣
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	5♦	All Pass	

You could argue (and I would not disagree) that Lhuissier did too little when he jumped to 5♦, while Drijver did too much when he jumped to slam – Michielsen would have bid 6♦ over 5♦ and if she did not bid slam it could hardly be good.

In 6♦, Drijver won the club lead in hand and correctly went to dummy with ♦K for the spade finesse. Had it lost he would have needed diamonds 2-2. When it held, he could play to ruff two spades in dummy and survive even a 3-1 trump break.

Netherlands led 11-5 now, but were gifted some IMPs when Verbeek and Bessis both played 4♥ on the lead of ♠9 with:

♠ Q 5 3		♠ A 8 6 2
♥ Q 10 9 8 7		♥ A J 6 5
♦ K Q 5		♦ J 7 4
♣ A 3		♣ 8 6

South had opened a minor in third seat. Both declarers ducked the opening lead and South won the spade and shifted to ♣Q. Convinced that North would not have passed at his first turn to speak with two kings, Verbeek advanced the ♥Q and went up with ♥A when North played low. This was a bad idea for two reasons; first the ♣Q might have been a false-card – though it was not. Secondly, North had ♥Kxx and ♣Kxxxx and had no reason to enter the auction when South had opened 1♦. Bessis was not trying to get his name in the newspapers; his North had raised 1♣ to 2♣ and thus shown values. He took a mundane heart finesse and stolidly collected his 10 IMPs.

Very little happened for the next few deals, then an opportunity for the Dutch backfired.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ J 10 4		♠ Q 9 8 3
♥ J 7 4		♥ K 6 2
♦ 9 7 4 2		♦ A J 10 8
♣ 10 8 3		♣ 5 4
♠ 7 5 2		♠ A K 6
♥ Q 10 9 3		♥ A 8 5
♦ Q 3		♦ K 6 5
♣ J 9 7 6		♣ A K Q 2

Both Souths played 2NT after a strong opening here. Bessis led a low heart and declarer quite reasonably did not guess to duck. Instead, she put up the jack and ducked Volcker's king. East shifted to the ♦J, and Michielsen ducked. The defence went back to hearts and Bessis won to lead a diamond back to the ace for a third heart. Michielsen had one diamond and one heart trick, but when neither clubs nor spades behaved she was out of chances.

(Volcker's diamond shift was necessary to beat the hand, but had Michielsen gone up with the ♦K would Bessis have remembered to unblock ♦Q – necessary for the defenders to run the suit?)

In the other room Robert ducked the lead of ♥10, covered the ♥9 at trick two, and won his ♥A to play a third heart. Verbeek cashed the long heart as Molenaar threw a club; Verbeek shifted to ♦Q and Molenaar had no good options. If he ducked, as he did, he would be stripped and endplayed in diamonds to lead spades. If he took his ace then the diamond communication would be lost and West could be endplayed in clubs eventually in an ending where every-one would have three spades left.

France led 16-11 now, and a few boards later a quirk of opening lead styles swung a big partscore swing, again, almost at random.

♠ J 9		♠ A 7 4 3 2
♥ K J 2		♥ A 9
♦ Q 7 4 2		♦ K 10 9 8
♣ K J 8 5		♣ A 3

Verbeek/Molenaar were the only pair in the field to stay out of the delicate 3NT – hardly a crime non-vulnerable. Say you reach the no-trump game as West after East has shown spades and diamonds and you have bid nothing but no trumps. How should you play the diamonds if you receive a fourth-highest lead of ♥3? And what about on the lead of ♥4, or ♥5, or ♥6?

I believe the text books tell you that if North leads his



Bob Drijver, Netherlands

long suit from hearts or clubs, and it looks to be only three or four cards long, then you should play him to have the diamond length, and thus lead a diamond to the ten. If North appears to have five hearts, lead a diamond to the king.

Ah, but what if North leads the ♠8 – second highest from a bad suit? Now it looks like North is quite short in hearts – and again a diamond to the ten looks indicated. This was the lead Bessis received and he duly followed this approach. Bad news! North led the ♠8 from 108743; good news, North also had ♦jxx so Bessis had brought home his game by doing the right thing for the wrong reasons

My favorite board of the whole event so far followed. Alas, not one declarer in the field got it right when confronted with the problem.

Board 14. Dealer East. None Vul.

♠ Q 4 ♥ A Q 7 4 ♦ K Q 7 3 ♣ A J 2	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ K 9 3 ♥ 10 6 ♦ A J 6 2 ♣ K Q 5 3	♠ J 8 7 2 ♥ K 9 8 3 ♦ 10 9 8 4 ♣ 9
	N											
W		E										
	S											
West Bessis	North Drijver	East Volcker	South Michielsen									
1♥	Pass	1♦	Pass									
2♦(i)	Pass	2NT	Pass									
3♦	Pass	4♦	Pass									
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass									
4NT	Pass	5♦	Pass									
6♦	All Pass											

(i) GF

In the Closed Room, Verbeek had relayed over the 1♣ (balanced 11-13 or strong) opening and settled wisely for 3NT. The key to reaching slam in the Open Room was Volcker's decision to bypass 3NT – he had a crisp honour structure, admittedly, but 4♦ still seems a big bid. How should you play 6♦ on a club lead?

The answer is to win the ace or jack in dummy and lead a trump to the ace (South must drop the eight or nine to start the process of misleading declarer). Now take the heart finesse and when it holds you have a choice of approaches. Clearly, you can claim if trumps are 3-2; just draw trumps and ruff a heart then pitch a heart on the clubs. It seems like you have to draw a second round of trumps to avoid accidents when diamonds are splitting, so you lead a trump to your jack and find the bad news. But you can play a heart to the ace and ruff a heart as South follows. Now draw the rest of the trumps and knock out the spade ace, hoping that the defenders will not have a heart to cash. If

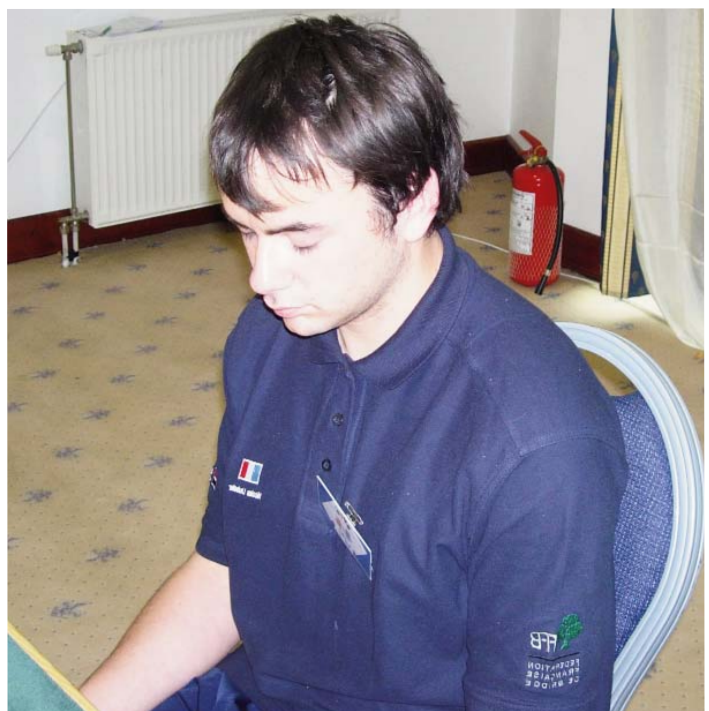
trumps are 4-1 with North being x-2-4-x you must ruff a heart before drawing trumps but that seems to be vastly against the odds.

At the table, Volcker won the club lead in dummy but led the ♦K at trick two and could not unscramble the trumps now after ruffing a heart. When he led a spade to the ♠Q the defenders had a club ruff to beat the slam. That brought the score to 29-24 for France, and when an underbid by Robert led to a missed vulnerable game it meant that Netherlands had retaken the lead 34-29. But that was the end of the good news for them.

On the following deal Verbeek/Molenaar had a system glitch that prevented them from getting to clubs; they played 2NT down a trick, while in the other room Volcker was in the right strain.

Board 16. Dealer West. E/W Vul.

♠ 10 ♥ J 10 4 ♦ 10 8 6 4 2 ♣ A Q 10 5	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td>N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>W</td><td></td><td>E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td>S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		♠ 4 3 2 ♥ K Q 6 3 ♦ Q 7 5 3 ♣ 3 2	♠ A Q J 7 5 ♥ 7 2 ♦ K J ♣ K J 6 4
	N											
W		E										
	S											
West Bessis	North Drijver	East Volcker	South Michielsen									
Pass	Pass	1♠	Pass									
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass									
3♣	All Pass											



Nicolas Lhuissier, France

Bessis' ambitious 3♣ call nearly persuaded Volcker to bid on; as it was 3♣ was quite high enough. Michielsen led a trump, to the queen, three and six (meaning that South could not work out her partner's suit preference, since the club could be from 3-2 or 4-3). Declarer now thoughtfully ran the ♠10 and Michielsen won, and had no idea of the location of the spade honours. If her partner had a spade honour it would be right to return a trump. As the cards lay, the winning defence was to cash two hearts, leaving North on play for a diamond shift to put declarer to the guess. He might well have got it right anyway, but Michielsen's trump return meant he had no further problems, indeed he had the diamond guess for the overtrick.

An unlikely overtrick for Bessis in what had appeared to be a challenging partscore led on to:

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ J 8 5 3 ♥ 2 ♦ A 9 8 6 5 4 ♣ 10 5	N W     E S	♠ K 9 7 6 ♥ 8 5 ♦ J 10 ♣ 8 7 6 4 3	♠ A Q 10 2 ♥ K Q 10 9 7 3 ♦ K Q 7 ♣
		♠ 4 ♥ A J 6 4 ♦ 3 2 ♣ A K Q J 9 2	

West	North	East	South
Bessis	Drijver	Volcker	Michielsen
		1♥	2♣
Pass	3♣	Dble	Pass
4♣	Pass	4♥	Dble
4♠	Dble	All Pass	
West	North	East	South
Verbeek	Lhuissier	Molenaar	Robert
		1♥	2♣
Pass	3♣	Dble	Rdbl
3♦	4♣	4♦	5♣
Dble	Pass	5♦	All Pass

The auction from the Closed Room (if correct) shows Molenaar doing a lot of bidding. But right he was: 5♦ proved easy to play with trumps 2-2 and Verbeek ended up with 420.

By contrast, 4♠ was very challenging. Drijver found the best lead of a club; declarer ruffed and missed the simplest of lines for the hand, which is to play the ♠Q at once. Whether North wins or ducks, declarer can arrange easily enough just to lose two trumps and a heart. Instead, he played a top heart, ruffed the next club, and was now reduced to a simple and a complex option. The simple line is to play for diamonds 2-2 or spades 3-2. Overtake the diamond king and finesse in spades, cash the ♠A, then run diamonds. The complex line – which Bessis followed – produced a charming ending. He cashed dummy's top heart

and advanced the ♥10, covered and ruffed, on which Drijver correctly pitched a diamond rather than over-ruff. Now a spade finesse followed, and Bessis cashed a winning diamond from dummy, reaching this ending.

♠ J 5 ♥ – ♦ A 9 8 6 ♣ –	N W     E S	♠ K 9 7 ♥ – ♦ – ♣ 8 7 6	♠ A ♥ 9 7 3 ♦ K 7 ♣ –
		♠ – ♥ 4 ♦ 3 ♣ K Q J 9	

Declarer has won six tricks so far and lost one, with the lead in dummy.

Bessis led out ♥9 and Drijver ruffed and returned a club, ruffed in hand; Bessis now had one trump in each hand and Drijver two. A second diamond was ruffed by Drijver, who had to lead another club for a second ruff and discard. Bessis pitched dummy's last diamond, leaving a master heart and the trump ace, and advanced a winning diamond, drawing Drijver's last trump indirectly and leaving dummy good. That was +590 and 5 IMPs.

The last two deals were equally swingy:

Board 19. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ A Q J 7 2 ♥ A 10 ♦ 7 6 4 ♣ A 10 7	N W     E S	♠ 10 8 5 ♥ K J 9 2 ♦ 8 3 ♣ K Q J 4	♠ K 9 3 ♥ Q 8 7 5 ♦ A Q 9 ♣ 9 8 6
		♠ 6 4 ♥ 6 4 3 ♦ K J 10 5 2 ♣ 5 3 2	

Verbeek/Molenaar followed everybody's route to 4♠ – a contract that was attempted unsuccessfully at more than three-quarters of the tables. Bessis/Volcker bid 1♠ – 2NT – 3NT, with 2NT showing a balanced limit raise. Well bid – and not so easy to get there the 'right' way up. On a low diamond lead, declarer had the luxury of a heart finesse for overtricks and 13 IMPs whether or not it succeeded.

It could have been worse for the Dutch; on the last deal Michielsen/Drijver had to stay out of an apparently decent slam that boils down to needing 2-2 trumps (they do not break) just to flatten the deal. France had won the match by 53-34 IMPs, 19-11 VPs and, with the exception of a couple of slam deals where they might almost as easily have picked up a swing instead of losing one, played very well indeed.

# UNDER 26 OPEN TEAMS ROUND 10



**RUSSIA**

**v**

**SWEDEN**



Two teams in the thick of the battle for medals and World Championship qualification met on vugraph in Round 10 of the Open series. The first few boards were full of action:

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ K 8 7 6  
♥ 9 4 3  
♦ J 5 2  
♣ 8 6 4

♠ 4 3  
♥ A 7 5  
♦ A K 9 8 3  
♣ A Q 2



♠ A Q 5 2  
♥ K Q 10 8 6  
♦ Q 6  
♣ J 10

♠ J 10 9  
♥ J 2  
♦ 10 7 4  
♣ K 9 7 5 3

West	North	East	South
Arvidsson	Osipov	Bech	Rubtsova
2♦(♥)	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♥	Pass	3♦	Pass
4NT	Pass	3♠	Pass
6♥	All Pass	5♠	Pass

West	North	East	South
Volozhenin	Rimstedt	Nekrasova	Gronkvist
2♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	2♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	3♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	4♥	Pass
6♥	All Pass	5♠	Pass

The respective Easts, Simon Bech for Sweden and Ksenia Nekrasova for Russia, made different rebids but both pairs agreed hearts at the three level, and the West players, Eric Arvidsson for Sweden and Ivan Volozhenin for Russia, were soon checking on key cards and bidding the small slam.

With everything lying very kindly for declarer, both made all 13 tricks without breaking sweat; flat at +1010.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ –  
♥ 10 5  
♦ Q 10 8 5 2  
♣ A K Q J 9 4

♠ 9 7 6 5 4 3  
♥ A Q 9  
♦ A  
♣ 10 5 2



♠ A 10  
♥ K 7 4 2  
♦ J 9 7 4  
♣ 8 7 3

♠ K Q J 8 2  
♥ J 8 6 3  
♦ K 6 3  
♣ 6

West	North	East	South
Arvidsson	Osipov	Bech	Rubtsova
1♠	4NT	Pass	Pass
Pass	Pass	Dble	5♦
		Dble	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Volozhenin	Rimstedt	Nekrasova	Gronkvist
2♠	3♣	3♠	Pass
Pass	4♣	Pass	5♣
All Pass			



Ekaterina Rubtsova, Russia

It seems cruel that the five-three fit should break four-one and play so much worse than the six-one fit, which of course divided evenly. Arvidsson opened the West hand 1♠ in third seat and Anton Osipov made a giant leap to 4NT, showing the minors. Facing a one-level opener, Bech could



double 4NT and also the preference to 5♦. At the other table, Volozhenin opened with a weak two bid and Cecilia Rimstedt overcalled a quiet 3♣ then, when Nekrasova's competitive 3♠ came around, bid the clubs for a second time. Mikael Gronqvist would have preferred to here a take-out double from his partner but, never mind, he had some high cards and, while it wasn't clear how useful some of them would be, he decided to raise to 5♣, ending the auction.

Against 5♣, Nekrasova led the obvious ace of spades, and must have been a little worried when she saw dummy and that declarer, of course, was ruffing. Fortunately for the Russians, Rimstedt did not have a quick entry to dummy. She drew trumps then very carefully led the queen of diamonds from hand. Volozhenin won the ace and played ace and another heart; down one for -100.

Five Diamonds doubled was rather less pleasant to play after a spade lead from West. Ekaterina Rubtsova emerged with eight tricks for -800 and 12 IMPs to Sweden.

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

♠ K 3 ♥ K Q 6 ♦ K Q J 10 2 ♣ J 6 2	<table style="width: 100%; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">W      E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W      E	S	♠ A Q 10 8 7 6 2 ♥ J 8 7 ♦ 9 8 ♣ 5
N					
W      E					
S					
♠ 9 5 4 ♥ A 10 5 4 2 ♦ A ♣ K Q 10 9	♠ J ♥ 9 3 ♦ 7 6 5 4 3 ♣ A 8 7 4 3				

West	North	East	South
<i>Arvidsson</i>	<i>Osipov</i>	<i>Bech</i>	<i>Rubtsova</i>
1♥	2♦	2♠	5♦
Dble	Pass	5♥	Dble
5♠	Dble	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
<i>Volozhenin</i>	<i>Rimstedt</i>	<i>Nekrasova</i>	<i>Gronqvist</i>
1♥	INT	2♠	2NT
3♠	Pass	4♣	All Pass

I prefer Rimstedt's INT overcall to Osipov's 2♦, but the latter worked out far better, up to a point, on this occasion. Facing the INT overcall, Gronqvist could compete but the big diamond fit was never discovered and Nekrasova was allowed to play in 4♠. Contrast that with the other table, where the 2♦ overcall made it possible for Rubtsova to leap to 5♦ and put pressure on her opponents. Arvidsson's double was not penalty so Bech removed to 5♥ and now Arvidsson corrected to 5♠ when that got doubled. Osipov doubled again, ending the auction.

Both Souths cashed the ace of clubs then switched to the nine of hearts. Both declarers rose with the ace and led a spade to the queen, Nekrasova cashing the ace of diamonds first, and both soon had 12 tricks stacked in front of them. That meant +680 for Nekrasova but +1050 to Bech and 9 IMPs to Sweden. Maybe the 2♦ overcall didn't work out better after all.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ 9 6 ♥ J 10 9 3 ♦ K 9 8 5 4 ♣ 4 2	<table style="width: 100%; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">W      E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W      E	S	♠ A 7 5 3 ♥ 5 2 ♦ Q J 6 2 ♣ K 9 5
N					
W      E					
S					
♠ K 2 ♥ A K Q 8 6 ♦ 7 ♣ A Q 8 6 3	♠ Q J 10 8 4 ♥ 7 4 ♦ A 10 3 ♣ J 10 7				

West	North	East	South
<i>Arvidsson</i>	<i>Osipov</i>	<i>Bech</i>	<i>Rubtsova</i>
1♣	Pass	1♥	1♠
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
<i>Volozhenin</i>	<i>Rimstedt</i>	<i>Nekrasova</i>	<i>Gronqvist</i>
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♣	All Pass		



Mikael Gronqvist, Sweden

Arvidsson opened a strong club and Bech's 1♥ response was a positive, 8+ HCP with no five-card major or six-card minor. Arvidsson showed each of his suits in turn but slam was never in the picture; +650.

Volozhenin opened a natural 1♥, rebid 2NT, showing clubs, and the partnership agreed clubs, explored a little, and bid the club slam. Six Clubs needed the clubs to come in, of course, plus hearts three-three or the ability to ruff a heart in dummy safely. Today, the issue of whether to ruff a heart before or after drawing two rounds of trumps was irrelevant. Nekrasova had to go one down for -100 and 13 IMPs to Sweden, who had scored 34 IMPs without reply over the first four deals.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ K 5 3 ♥ J ♦ Q 10 9 4 3 2 ♣ K 8 7	<table style="width: 100%; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">W      E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W      E	S	♠ Q J 7 ♥ 8 6 4 3 ♦ K J 7 5 ♣ J 3	♠ 2 ♥ K Q 7 5 2 ♦ A 6 ♣ Q 10 9 6 5
N						
W      E						
S						

West <i>Arvidsson</i>	North <i>Osipov</i>	East <i>Bech</i>	South <i>Rubtsova</i>
2♣	2♣	Pass	2♦
4♣	All Pass	3NT	Pass

West <i>Volozhenin</i>	North <i>Rimstedt</i>	East <i>Nekrasova</i>	South <i>Gronkvist</i>
1♠	Pass	Pass	1♥
	2♦	2♣	All Pass

Russia got on the scoreboard thanks to Osipov's 2♣ opening, either strong and artificial or weak with diamonds. When Arvidsson overcalled, normally enough, Bech took a bit of a gamble, by jumping to 3NT on his eight-count, hoping to run the spades. Arvidsson went back to 4♣ but that was hopeless as, of course, would have been 3NT.

Osipov led his heart and Arvidsson ducked. Osipov switched to the seven of clubs for the nine and ace and Arvidsson cashed the ace of spades then led a diamond to the king and ace. Rubtsova could play the king of hearts, ruffing out the ace, and get back in with a club to cash the ♥Q. The contract was three down for -150.

Rimstedt did not have an opening bid in her methods so Gronkvist opened in third seat and Volozhenin overcalled. Rimstedt could show her diamonds but there was no reason for anybody to go beyond the two level.

Volozhenin knew to win the heart lead. He next led a club to the jack and queen so Gronkvist was in to cash his heart winners. Rimstedt threw diamonds on the hearts and the defence just came to the ace of diamonds and king of

spades; +110 and 6 IMPs to Russia. But had Rimstedt discarded both her clubs, she could then have ruffed declarer's ace and that would have been the sixth defensive trick.

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

♠ 10 9 4 ♥ 10 8 2 ♦ A 10 5 ♣ 8 5 3 2	<table style="width: 100%; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">W      E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W      E	S	♠ A 6 2 ♥ A K 9 5 4 3 ♦ 7 3 2 ♣ 9	♠ J 7 5 ♥ - ♦ Q J 9 8 6 ♣ K 10 7 6 4
N						
W      E						
S						

West <i>Arvidsson</i>	North <i>Osipov</i>	East <i>Bech</i>	South <i>Rubtsova</i>
2NT	Pass	5♦	Dble
All Pass			

West <i>Volozhenin</i>	North <i>Rimstedt</i>	East <i>Nekrasova</i>	South <i>Gronkvist</i>
Pass	Pass	1♥	INT
Pass	Pass	2♥	All Pass

Arvidsson had a toy for the West hand – 2NT to show a weak hand with both minors. Bech's 5♦ bid was way too much with defence against the majors and inadequate help in the minors. Rubtsova's double and Osipov's pass dealt out swift and painful justice.

Rubtsova led the king of spades. Bech won the ace and cashed the top hearts, throwing clubs from dummy, then led his club up. Rubtsova won the ace of clubs and returned the queen to dummy's king, Bech discarding a spade. He continued with the ♣10 and threw his remaining spade



Anton Osipov, Russia

away. Rubtsova won the ♣J and played a heart, ruffed in dummy. Now declarer ruffed a spade and led a heart, ruffing high and being over-ruffed. Back came a spade, which he ruffed. Now Bech led his last diamond but Rubtsova rose with the king to play her last spade and that promoted the ten of diamonds for down three and -500.

Volozhenin did not have a toy for the West hand so passed and Nekrasova opened 1♥. Volozhenin remained silent when Gronkvist overcalled INT and Nekrasova competed with 2♥, ending the auction – how dull!

Again the lead was the king of spades. Nekrasova won the ace and led her club to Gronkvist's ace. Gronkvist played queen and another spade to dummy's jack. Nekrasova cashed the king of clubs, ruffed a club and played three rounds of hearts. She had to lose two tricks in each red suit so was one down for -50 but 10 IMPs to Russia.

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

♠ 9 ♥ QJ9763 ♦ K104 ♣ J74	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">W     E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W     E	S	♠ QJ432 ♥ K ♦ A632 ♣ 1063	
N						
W     E						
S						
♠ K876 ♥ A105 ♦ 7 ♣ A985		♠ A105 ♥ 842 ♦ QJ985 ♣ K2				
West Arvidsson  All Pass	North Osipov 2♥	East Bech Pass	South Rubtsova 3♥			
West Volozhenin  Dble 4♠	North Rimstedt 2♦ Pass All Pass	East Nekrasova Pass 3♠	South Gronkvist 2♥ Pass			

The natural weak two bid worked better than the multi here. Knowing partner's suit, Rubtsova could raise the 2♥ opening to 3♥ and now Arvidsson had not quite enough to double with that distribution – partner would be limited by his failure to act when short in hearts. Three Hearts was a couple off for -100 but that was OK, thought Osipov.

Rimstedt opened a multi 2♦ and now Gronkvist could have responded 3♥, pass or correct, but that wasn't so attractive with moderate hearts when partner could have a strong option. He responded 2♥ and Volozhenin felt that he had enough to come in at that level. When Nekrasova could jump to 3♠ in response, (yes, 4♠ was the value bid) he went on to the cold game. With the clubs breaking with the king onside and declarer able to throw club from hand on the ace of hearts, there were twelve tricks to be had for +680 and 11 IMPs to Russia, who had closed to 27-35.

The second half was much quieter, with only one major swing, though Sweden picked up a number of smaller swings.

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ Q864 ♥ 1098 ♦ A65 ♣ A53	<table style="margin: auto; border: 1px solid black; background-color: #008000; color: white;"> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">W     E</td></tr> <tr><td style="padding: 5px;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W     E	S	♠ K97 ♥ J765 ♦ J932 ♣ J10	
N						
W     E						
S						
		♠ J5 ♥ A3 ♦ KQ874 ♣ KQ42				
West Arvidsson INT All Pass	North Osipov Pass	East Bech 2♣	South Rubtsova 2♦			
West Volozhenin Pass Pass Pass Pass	North Rimstedt Pass 1♥ 3♣ 3NT	East Nekrasova Pass Pass Pass All Pass	South Gronkvist 1♦ INT 3♠			

Arvidsson's mini-no trump made life tough for his opponents. Rubtsova overcalled 2♦ over Stayman, by no means a secure action, and played there.

Arvidsson led a low spade. Rubtsova took the ace and three rounds of hearts for a spade discard from hand, then she ruffed a spade and played the king of clubs. Arvidsson won the ace of clubs and played a spade to force declarer, which is exactly what she wanted. Rubtsova ruffed the spade and played queen and another club. She had only one trump trick from here but that was her eighth; +90.

Plus 90 didn't have to be a disaster score for North/South as it is by no means automatic to get to game. But the strong no-trump rebid meant that the Swedes did just that and there was sufficient help in the lie of the cards to give Gronkvist a good chance of success.

Volozhenin led a low spade, ducked to the king. Back came a second spade for the jack, queen and ace, and Gronkvist led a club to the ten and king, ducked, crossed to the queen of hearts and led a second club for the jack, queen and ace. Volozhenin played a heart now. Declarer won the ace and played the king of diamonds. Volozhenin won the ace and played a spade to dummy's ten. Gronkvist could cash dummy's winners and exit with either losing major-suit card and the defender who won that trick would have to give him a diamond at the end; +600 and 11 IMPs to Sweden.

The final score was 48-37 in favour of Sweden. This 17-13 VP win helped them into fourth place and well in the hunt for the medals, while Russia slipped to eighth, almost a match behind.

# UNDER 26 OPEN TEAMS ROUND 11



**FRANCE**

**v**

**DENMARK**



The French Open team has been on good form in recent matches and continued its drive for the title in Round 11 against Denmark. See what happened in the first six boards of the match.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

♠ A K 9 7 4 2 ♥ K 2 ♦ 10 4 ♣ A J 5	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N		E	W		S	♠ 6 3 ♥ 5 4 3 ♦ K Q 9 ♣ K Q 7 6 2	♠ Q J ♥ A 8 6 ♦ A J 7 5 3 ♣ 9 8 3
N		E							
W		S							

West <i>Jepsen</i>	North <i>Volcker</i>	East <i>Bilde</i>	South <i>Bessis</i>
1♠	Pass	Pass	1♦
2♦	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West <i>Robert</i>	North <i>Nielsen</i>	East <i>Lhuissier</i>	South <i>Houlberg</i>
1♠	Pass	Pass	1♦
3♠	Pass	4♠	All Pass

France took the lead with a game swing on the first board when the respective East/West pairs chose to play in different game contracts. The key was West's second call. Quentin Robert (France) made the simple invitational call of 3♠ and Nicolas Lhuissier raised to game. With spades three-two and the heart ace where it was expected to be, 4♠ was cold and Robert quickly scored ten tricks for +420.

In the other room, Emil Jepsen chose to cuebid the opponents' suit and it seemed natural for Dennis Bilde to stress his good diamond stopper and sound values by jumping to 3NT. It was equally natural for Jepsen to accept his decision.

The fate of 3NT rested on the opening lead and Thomas Bessis was not found wanting. He led the eight of hearts. Bilde put up dummy's king, Frederic Volcker signaling clearly by dropping the queen, and played a diamond to the queen. Bessis won the ace and played ace and another heart, and that was one down for -50 and 10 IMPs to France.

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ A 9 6 4 ♥ 9 2 ♦ 4 3 2 ♣ 9 8 7 2	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N		E	W		S	♠ K Q 10 8 7 ♥ J 8 4 ♦ A Q 7 ♣ A J	♠ 2 ♥ Q 10 ♦ J 9 8 5 ♣ K Q 10 6 5 4
N		E							
W		S							

West <i>Jepsen</i>	North <i>Volcker</i>	East <i>Bilde</i>	South <i>Bessis</i>
4♣	5♣	3♣	3♥
Pass	6♥	Pass	5♦
		All Pass	

West <i>Robert</i>	North <i>Nielsen</i>	East <i>Lhuissier</i>	South <i>Houlberg</i>
5♣	5♥	3♣	3♥
		All Pass	

Both Easts opened with a 3♣ pre-empt and both Souths overcalled 3♥. Now Jepsen raised to only 4♣ and that left room for Volcker to cuebid 5♣. When Bessis was willing to



Frederic Volcker, France

cuebid in response, Volcker jumped to 6♥.

As the cards lie, 6♠ is the slam that can be made, while 6♥ is beaten on ace and another spade lead – but is there any good reason why Jepsen should find the killing lead? He actually led a club so Bessis could win and play of the top hearts. When the queen fell he was home; +1430.

Robert raised a level higher, to 5♣, which would be my preferred action also. That left no room for Lars Kirkegaard Nielsen to make a slam try – other than slam try as in, 'bid slam then try to make it' – and he settled for 5♥. This gave no chance that Anne-Sofie Houlberg might raise, so the Danes scored +680 but that was 13 IMPs to France.

Perhaps Nielsen should just bid 6♥ over 5♣ – he has a lot of good cards and can see partner's club shortage – but you would actually be happy to stop in five looking at the two hands, so...

Board 3. Dealer South. E/W Vul.

	♠ 10 9 4		
	♥ A 4		
	♦ A J 6 2		
	♣ A Q 7 2		
♠ J		♠ A Q 8 7 6 3	
♥ K Q J 10 5		♥ 7	
♦ 10 9 7 3		♦ K Q 8 5 4	
♣ J 9 5		♣ 6	
	♠ K 5 2		
	♥ 9 8 6 3 2		
	♦ –		
	♣ K 10 8 4 3		

West	North	East	South
Jepsen	Volcker	Bilde	Bessis
Pass	INT	2♠	3♦
Pass	3♥	4♦	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Robert	Nielsen	Lhuissier	Houlberg
Pass	INT	2♠	4♣
Pass	5♣	Pass	Pass
Dble	All Pass		

Both Norths opened INT and both Easts overcalled 2♠. Bessis now bid 3♦, transfer, and was content to leave any further decision to partner when Bilde competed with 4♦. Holding only a doubleton heart and good defence to a diamond contract, Volcker passed.

Bessis led the four of clubs. Volcker won the ace and continued the suit for Bilde to ruff. Declarer played the queen of diamonds and Volcker won the ace as Bessis pitched the ten of clubs. Volcker played a third club, on which Bilde threw his heart loser. Bessis won and could see that a ruff and discard could not benefit declarer so played another club, ruffed with dummy's ten. Bilde threw a spade and next played the jack of spades to his queen. Bessis won the king and played a heart, the ace being ruffed out. Bilde played

ace of spades and ruffed a spade with the nine then led winning hearts off the dummy. Volcker had to come to one trump trick; down two for -200.

Houlberg bid 4♣, clubs and hearts, over the 2♠ intervention, driving to game so as to be able to show both her suits. Nielsen raised to 5♣ and Robert doubled, knowing that his hearts would be big problem for declarer.

Robert led a club, which ran to Houlberg's eight. She played ace and another heart and Robert won and played a second club. Houlberg won the ace and played a spade up. Lhuissier rose with the ace and returned a low spade, on which declarer played low. Robert ruffed and had to come to a heart in the ending for down one; -100 and 7 IMPs to France, who led by 30-0 after three boards.

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

	♠ Q J 7 6 2		
	♥ J 10 3		
	♦ 8 4 2		
	♣ 9 8		
♠ A K 9 4		♠ 10	
♥ –		♥ K Q 7 6 4	
♦ A Q 10 6 5 3		♦ K 9 7	
♣ J 6 4		♣ A K Q 2	
	♠ 8 5 3		
	♥ A 9 8 5 2		
	♦ J		
	♣ 10 7 5 3		

West	North	East	South
Jepsen	Volcker	Bilde	Bessis
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♣	Pass
4♦	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♦	All Pass


West	North	East	South
Robert	Nielsen	Lhuissier	Houlberg
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♦	Pass
4♠	Pass	4NT	Pass
5♠	Pass	6♦	All Pass

Seven Diamonds is, of course, cold, but neither East/West pair could get there. The problem was that at both tables it was East who took control and used Keycard, but it was West's heart void which was the key to the grand slam and this route did not address this issue.

In the Open, only two pairs out of 22 reached seven – take a bow Pauli Nieminen and Juho Granstrom of Finland, and also Mehmet Guney Gundogdu and Sehmus Ercan of Turkey. Three pairs missed slam altogether.

In the Girls, pride of place must go to the Spangenberg sisters, Sigrid and Jamilla, from the Netherlands, the only pair to reach seven. Four pairs out of 14 stopped in game.

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

	♠ 9 6 5		
	♥ K 10 7 4 2		
	♦ 7 6 3		
	♣ J 4		
♠ J 10 7		♠ K 2	
♥ 9 8 5		♥ A J	
♦ Q 10 4 2		♦ A K J 9 5	
♣ K 9 5		♣ Q 10 3 2	
	♠ A Q 8 4 3		
	♥ Q 6 3		
	♦ 8		
	♣ A 8 7 6		

West	North	East	South
Jepsen	Volcker	Bilde	Bessis
	Pass	1♦	1♠
2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♦	Pass	3♥	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	All Pass

West	North	East	South
Robert	Nielsen	Lhuissier	Houlberg
	Pass	1♦	1♠
Pass	Pass	INT	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass


The flat board had been a brief respite for the Danes but now France started up again. Both Easts declared 3NT, though after quite different auctions. What would you lead from the South hand on these two auctions?

From Houlberg's perspective, declarer had bid no-trump at his second turn and East/West had then had an invitational no-trump auction to game, no new suits or cuebids being involved. Presumably, then, they were well covered in spades. Houlberg therefore looked elsewhere. Had she chosen a heart, she would have defeated the contract, but she chose her own second suit, the six of clubs. The club went to the jack and queen and Lhuissier returned the suit. Houlberg ducked until the third round, by which time she had seen an encouraging heart discard from Nielsen so switched to a low heart, but it was too late. Lhuissier had nine tricks and ran for home; +400.

Bessis had heard a very different auction in which 3NT had

only been reached after considerable groping around. He led the ace of spades and continued with the eight. When the doubleton king appeared, Bessis had the setting tricks in his own hand. Bilde cashed the diamonds but Bessis was under no significant pressure. He threw his low clubs plus one heart and that was one down for -50 and 10 IMPs to France.

Board 6. Dealer East. E/W Vul.

♠ A Q 9 7		♠ 8 6 2	
♥ 9 7 5 4		♥ K 2	
♦ A Q 2		♦ K J 9 6	
♣ Q 2		♣ A J 10 6	
	♠ J 4 3		
	♥ 10 8 6 3		
	♦ 10 8 7		
	♣ 9 7 4		

West	North	East	South
Jepsen	Volcker	Bilde	Bessis
		1♣	Pass
1♥	Pass	INT	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

West	North	East	South
Robert	Nielsen	Lhuissier	Houlberg
		1♦	Pass
1♥	Pass	INT	Pass
3NT	All Pass		

Again East declared 3NT at both tables.

Houlberg led the seven of clubs to the queen, king and ace. Lhuissier took the losing spade finesse and Nielsen switched to the queen of hearts. Lhuissier closed his eyes and covered with the king. When he opened them again he found that his king had scored and he had nine tricks; +600.

Bessis too led the seven of clubs to dummy's queen but Volcker did not cover so the queen scored. Bilde cashed three rounds of diamonds then led a spade. Bessis put up the jack and Bilde decided to duck. Bessis played back a spade and Bilde rose with the ace to play a club to his ace, clearly convinced from the play at trick one that the king was offside - well done Volcker! He continued with the ten of clubs and must have been disappointed to see Volcker winning the trick. Worse, Volcker now cashed the king of spades and had the fourth club with which to put declarer back on lead. Bilde had to lead away from the king of hearts at trick twelve and was one down for -100 and 12 IMPs to France.

After six boards it was 52-0 to France.

Denmark put up a much better show for the remainder of the match but could not recover from that start. The final score: France 77 Denmark 44, or 22-8 in VPs.

## Past Play Problem No. 5

Here is another play problem from an earlier Youth Championship:

How should West play 6♦? North leads a spade.

♠ A K 6 2		♠ 4
♥ A 10 4		♥ K J 6 3
♦ A Q J 8		♦ K 9 2
♣ Q 5		♣ A 8 7 6 3

Solution on page 22.

**UNDER 26 GIRLS TEAMS FINAL BUTLER**

	<b>Name</b>		<b>Boards</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Butler</b>
1	GRABOWSKA Ewa Agnieszka	SAKOWSKA Natalia	260	Poland	0,92
2	PUILLET Carole	CARBONNEAUX Jessie	200	France	0,80
3	MORTENSEN Maria Dam	SORENSEN Anne Juhl	260	Denmark	0,69
4	TICHA Magdalena	HAJKOVA Sona	180	Czech Republic	0,68
5	CANONNE Marion	ROBERT Lea	160	France	0,63
6	SARV Tuul	PARN Erika	260	Estonia	0,61
7	GRONKVIST Ida	LINDSTROM Ulrika	260	Sweden	0,59
8	KAYE Alice	MARVIN Jennifer	60	England	0,57
9	HOLEKSA Magdalena	WEINHOLD Izabela	140	Poland	0,56
10	BARENDREGT Rosaline	LEUFKENS Lotte	180	Netherlands	0,55
11	TYSZKIEWICZ Katarzyna	JATCZAK Paulina	120	Poland	0,39
12	SPANGENBERG Jamilla	SPANGENBERG Sigrid	200	Netherlands	0,34
13	HEIM Anne	KAEPPEL Katharina	140	Germany	0,24
14	FISCHER Brigitta	VEGH Mariann	260	Hungary	0,20
15	TICHA Katerina	CERNA Anna Marie	160	Czech Republic	0,20
16	PETERSEN Moa	PAULSSON Emma	260	Sweden	0,20
17	GRUDE Liv Marit	ROEBERG Marita Haugan	180	Norway	0,19
18	THIZY Aurelie	CHAUGNY Claire	160	France	0,17
19	ROWOLD Anna-Marie	HEIM Anne	120	Germany	0,11
20	FISCHER Andrea	GABOR Hanna	260	Hungary	0,11
21	NAB Judith	DEKKERS Laura	140	Netherlands	0,06
22	EGGELING Marie	BRINCK Katharina	180	Germany	0,01
23	MORINA Stefania	BURGIO Caterina	160	Italy	0,01
24	EGGELING Marie	KAEPPEL Katharina	80	Germany	-0,03
25	VLACHOVA Karolina	DUDKOVA Marketa	180	Czech Republic	-0,04
26	EGE Anna Christa	BUUS THOMSEN Signe	260	Denmark	-0,08
27	HANSEN Reidun Margrethe	EVERTSEN Anita	160	Norway	-0,14
28	BOTTA Giorgia	CHAVARRIA Margherita	200	Italy	-0,21
29	SARV Pihel	ORAS Maarja	260	Estonia	-0,22
30	ROBERTS Elizabeth	MARVIN Jennifer	100	England	-0,26
31	DAVID Cristina	PAVEL Jacqueline	120	Romania	-0,30
32	HAGEN Inger Anne	FONKALSRUD Mari	180	Norway	-0,40
33	YILDIZ Ceyda	SEKER Olgu	200	Turkey	-0,53
34	KAYE Alice	O'CONNOR Sarah	160	England	-0,59
35	TEKIN Ozge	SARIOZ Pinar	200	Turkey	-0,60
36	IACOPINI Eleonora	LANZUISI Flavia	160	Italy	-0,91
37	DAVID Cristina	DAVID Teodora	140	Romania	-0,99
38	STOUT Amy	MIDDLETON Emily	200	England	-1,05
39	EREN Zeynep Seda	DOGMUS Ezgi	120	Turkey	-1,09
40	PAVEL Jacqueline	PETRIA Georgiana	80	Romania	-1,25
41	PETRIA Georgiana	SAFTA Alexandra-Ioana	140	Romania	-2,01

**UNDER 26 OPEN TEAMS BUTLER AFTER 11 ROUNDS**

Name		Boards	Country	Butler
1 BOGEN Haakon	JOHANSEN Lars Arthur	120	Norway	1,38
2 ARVIDSSON Eric	BECH Simon	140	Sweden	1,14
3 DELLE CAVE Giuseppe	FELLUS Robin	80	Italy	1,09
4 LORENZINI Cedric	GROSSET Christophe	140	France	1,01
5 KATERBAU Janko	REHDER Martin	200	Germany	0,91
6 BESSIS Thomas	VOLCKER Frederic	160	France	0,74
7 SIMONSEN Steffen Fredrik	SKJETNE Erlend	140	Norway	0,61
8 PADON Dror	TARNOVSKI Bar	160	Israel	0,60
9 SIKORA Jan	NAWROCKI Piotr	140	Poland	0,58
10 LINDQVIST Espen	BERG Erik	140	Norway	0,57
11 DRIJVER Bob	MICHELSEN Marion	160	Netherlands	0,55
12 ATTHEY John	OWEN Chris	140	England	0,52
13 MANNO Andrea	DI FRANCO Massimiliano	180	Italy	0,46
14 GOGOMAN Adele	ISLAM Jefri	180	Austria	0,42
15 VASILEV Nikolai	DRAGANOV Zhivko	80	Bulgaria	0,40
16 BILDE Dennis	JEPSEN Emil	160	Denmark	0,40
17 NISTOR Radu	DOBRESCU Raluca Elena	220	Romania	0,40
18 SJOBORG Emma	RIMSTEDT Sandra	120	Sweden	0,39
19 VESELOV Ivan	BORISOV Dmitri	80	Russia	0,39
20 MACURA Milan	KOPECKY Michal	200	Czech Republic	0,38
21 KISS Gabor	TORMA Robert	180	Hungary	0,36
22 LHUISSIER Nicolas	ROBERT Quentin	140	France	0,32
23 SCHULZ Dieter	BINA Richard	200	Austria	0,31
24 BETHERS Peteris	IMSA Adrians	160	Latvia	0,29
25 BETHERS Janis	LAUKS Lauris	140	Latvia	0,28
26 WUERMSEER Maria	ZIMMERMANN Felix	160	Germany	0,26
27 VOLOZHENIN Ivan	VESELOV Ivan	80	Russia	0,24
28 DONDIVIC Luka	STANICIC Ognjen	160	Croatia	0,18
29 NEKRASOVA Ksenia	VOLOZHENIN Ivan	120	Russia	0,13
30 WIANKOWSKI Piotr	ZATORSKI Piotr	140	Poland	0,05
31 VAN MECHELEN Rutger	VAN MECHELEN Joram	140	Belgium	0,04
32 MOLENAAR Danny	VERBEEK Tim	120	Netherlands	0,02
33 ASSARAF Eran	SCHWARTZ Ron	80	Israel	0,01
34 KRAWCZYK Joanna	WASIAK Artur Lucasz	120	Poland	0,01
35 DOXIADIS Konstantinos	KONTOMITROS Konstantinos	220	Greece	-0,01
36 OSIPOV Anton	RUBTSOVA Ekaterina	140	Russia	-0,02
37 RIMSTEDT Cecilia	GRONKVIST Mikael	140	Sweden	-0,03
38 ERCAN Sehmus	GUNDOGDU Mehmet Guney	160	Turkey	-0,06
39 PAGTER Vincent de	HOP Jacco	120	Netherlands	-0,08
40 ILGIN Irfan	OZGUR Muhammet	120	Turkey	-0,08
41 MONTANARI Matteo	FRANCHI Arrigo	180	Italy	-0,09
42 KARHULAHTI Arttu	MAKELA Anni	160	Finland	-0,11
43 SKORCHEV Stefan	SPASOV Dean	200	Bulgaria	-0,11
44 JONES Ian W B	SOMERVILLE Wayne	160	Ireland	-0,13
45 SIDEROV Zhivko	SYUSYUKIN Ivan	120	Bulgaria	-0,16
46 BALASOVS Juris	LORENCS Martins	140	Latvia	-0,16
47 NIELSEN Lars Kirkegaard	HOULBERG Anne-Sofie	120	Denmark	-0,18
48 MINARIK Gabor	RETTEGHY Orsolya	220	Hungary	-0,25
49 MORRIS Alex	BROWN Fiona	120	England	-0,28
50 ARGELAZI Eliran	BIRMAN Alon	160	Israel	-0,29
51 BAHNIK Ondrej	BARNET Lukas	80	Czech Republic	-0,35
52 STAFIE Diana Mihaela	PARVULESCU Mihai Lucian	180	Romania	-0,39
53 OZTURK Erdem	CICEK Arda	120	Turkey	-0,43
54 RUSO Lara	ZEPIC Vjekoslav	180	Croatia	-0,46
55 HODEROVA Pavla	JANKOVA Jana	160	Czech Republic	-0,49
56 GRANSTROM Juho	NIEMINEN Pauli	140	Finland	-0,50
57 GRACIN Tomislav	GUMZEJ Rudolf	100	Croatia	-0,54
58 VROUSTIS Vassilis	DARKADAKIS Athanasios	100	Greece	-0,58
59 PEDERSEN Lea Troels Moller	SORENSEN Lars Moller	120	Denmark	-0,73
60 FAGERLUND Juuso	FAGERLUND Vesa	140	Finland	-0,87
61 DOBBELS Tine	DE VISSCHERE Willem	140	Belgium	-0,87
62 SCHAFFER Jorrit	GEENS Bert	120	Belgium	-0,88
63 VROUSTIS Vassilis	SOFIOS Michalis	80	Greece	-0,90
64 JONES Edward	BELL Michael	140	England	-0,96
65 BOYD Richard	O'ROURKE Michael	140	Ireland	-1,61
66 SYNNOTT David	O'CONNOR Kelan	140	Ireland	-2,01
67 KAUTNY Paul	HOEPFLER Markus	60	Austria	-2,47



# UNDER 26 GIRLS TEAMS

# ROUND 13



**FRANCE**

**v**

**POLAND**



The last match of the Girls Championship saw the two table-leaders meet. France on 231 VPs held a 6 VP advantage over Poland. Poland needed to win by 18-12 in VPs (i.e. at least 13 IMPs) to take gold on a split tie. The chasing teams, Netherlands on 207, and Denmark on 206, would need a very favourable result to have a chance of silver.

In the Open Room, Jessie Carbonneaux & Carole Puillet of France faced Magda Holeksa & Izabela Weinhold of Poland. In the Closed, Marion Canonne & Lea Robert were up against Ewa Grabowska & Natalia Sakowska (you can guess the countries). All four pairs were playing systems close to standard in their own country.

Board 1. Dealer North. None Vul.

<p>♠ 5 2 ♥ 9 7 6 2 ♦ K J 10 9 6 ♣ A 6</p>	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 80px; height: 80px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">N</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">W</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">E</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">S</div> </div>	<p>♠ J 9 7 ♥ K 8 4 ♦ 4 ♣ Q 8 7 5 4 2</p>	<p>♠ A Q 10 3 ♥ J 3 ♦ 8 7 2 ♣ J 10 9 3</p>
<p>♠ K 8 6 4 ♥ A Q 10 5 ♦ A Q 5 3 ♣ K</p>			

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Holeksa	Carbonneaux	Weinhold	Puillet
Pass	Pass	Pass	1♦
All Pass	INT	Pass	3NT

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
Canonne	Grabowska	Robert	Sakowska
1♦	Pass	Pass	1♣(i)
All Pass	2♣	Pass	3NT

(i) Polish Club

Both tables reached 3NT but in the Open Room North was declarer. Here, East led a low spade won by the nine. Carbonneaux continued with the ♠J taken by East's ace. East switched to a low club to the king and ace. West played a second club ducked to East as dummy threw a diamond.

East now fatally continued with a club, allowing declarer

to set up the suit and claim nine tricks.

Things went very differently in the Closed Room where South was declarer. The opening lead, the ♥7, was covered by eight, jack and ace. The ♣K was taken by the ace and a second heart was won cheaply in the South hand. Declarer tried a spade to the nine, losing to East's ten. A diamond switch was ducked to West who continued the suit to South.

Now a spade was led to the jack and queen. East cashed the ace and played another diamond. South could win and make the ♠K. But now, if she crossed to dummy with the third heart, she would be cut off from her fourth heart, and if she cashed the hearts, she would not make the winning club. The game was three off for a swing of 11 IMPs to France.

This was a great start for France. Board 2 was flat but interesting:

Board 2. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

<p>♠ 9 8 6 4 2 ♥ A 9 3 ♦ A 3 ♣ A 8 6</p>	<div style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin: 0 auto; width: 80px; height: 80px; display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">N</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">W</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">E</div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 100%;">S</div> </div>	<p>♠ A ♥ K Q J 7 5 ♦ K J 10 9 ♣ Q 7 3</p>	<p>♠ K Q 10 7 ♥ 6 ♦ Q 8 6 4 2 ♣ J 10 2</p>
<p>♠ J 5 3 ♥ 10 8 4 2 ♦ 7 5 ♣ K 9 5 4</p>			

**Open Room**

West	North	East	South
Holeksa	Carbonneaux	Weinhold	Puillet
1♠	2♥	4♠	All Pass

**Closed Room**

West	North	East	South
Canonne	Grabowska	Robert	Sakowska
1♠	2♥	3♥	Pass
4♠	All Pass		

Both Wests were in 4♠ on the ♥K lead. The winning defence, difficult to see, is for the defence to force dummy twice with heart leads, thereby promoting South's jack of trumps.

In the Open Room, Holeksa actually began by trumping a heart herself and then played a diamond to the ace and another diamond. North did well to win, cash the trump ace, and play a third heart. The defence made another spade and

a club.

In the Closed Room, West played a trump at trick two, but North continued hearts. North might well have played South for ♣A instead of ♠J and ♣K, by shifting to a club. After ace and another diamond the position was the same and again the third heart ensured defeat of the game. Well done both defences. (But see elsewhere how declarer made her contract by leading a low diamond at trick two.)

There was no swing on Board 3 but the next deal had very different auctions:

Board 4. Dealer West. All Vul.

♠ K 3		♠ A 5 4 2
♥ 6 5		♥ 2
♦ Q 8 5 2		♦ A J 7 4
♣ J 9 8 7 4		♣ A K Q 2
	♠ N	
	♥ W	♥ E
	♦ S	
	♣ Q J 9 7	
	♥ Q 10 9 8 7	
	♦ K	
	♣ 6 5 3	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Holeksa	Carbonneaux	Weinhold	Puillet
Pass	Pass	1♣(i)	Pass
1♦(ii)	Pass	1♠(iii)	Pass
INT(iv)	All Pass		

- (i) Polish
- (ii) Negative
- (iii) Still weak or strong
- (iv) 5-7



Magdalena Holeksa, Poland

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Canonne	Grabowska	Robert	Sakowska
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♥
1♠	4♥	Dble	All Pass

In the Open Room, Poland stopped quietly in INT. The defence cashed five hearts and declarer made the rest for 120 to Poland.

In the Closed Room, South came into the auction vulnerable and North, with massive support, raised to game. A diamond was led to the ace and a low spade switch would have garnered 500. But East played another diamond and declarer was able to draw trumps and concede one off. This was 200 to France but only 2 IMPs.

Poland had their first gain on the next board:

Board 5. Dealer North. N/S Vul.

♠ K J 9		♠ 7 6
♥ 8 5 4		♥ A K 6 2
♦ K Q 10 8 4		♦ J 9 7 5
♣ Q 5		♣ J 10 9
	♠ N	
	♥ W	♥ E
	♦ S	
	♠ A 10 5 4	
	♥ 7	
	♦ A 3 2	
	♣ 8 7 4 3 2	
	♠ Q 8 3 2	
	♥ Q J 10 9 3	
	♦ 6	
	♣ A K 6	

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Holeksa	Carbonneaux	Weinhold	Puillet
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	INT	Pass	2♣
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Canonne	Grabowska	Robert	Sakowska
	1♦	Pass	1♥
Pass	INT	Pass	2♠
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

Both North's opened very light so reached an impossible-looking 4♥, played by South.

In the Open Room, a club was led to the ace and a diamond played. West ducked so the king won. Declarer now appeared to be in with a chance. The ♠K went to the ace and a second club to the queen. Declarer cashed ♠J, ruffed a diamond, cashed the third club throwing a spade from dummy, and then ruffed a spade with ♥8.

East did not over-ruff, instead throwing a diamond. Declarer now played a trump to East who cashed her second high trump and forced declarer with a diamond to promote a

third trump trick for herself. The defence had not made the  $\heartsuit A$  but had made three trumps instead. In fact at double-dummy ducking the  $\heartsuit A$  does not let the contract through. Although if declarer plays a trump at trick three, East must rise with the  $\heartsuit A$  and play a black suit to beat the game.

In the Closed Room, West also began with a club. This time when the diamond was led West rose with the ace and tried underleading her ace of spades. Declarer somehow did not lose to the ace of spades! So this was 12 IMPs to Poland, now only 1 IMP behind.

Board 6 was 3NT by both with the defence cashing five hearts and another finesse to lose for a flat board. Board 7 was an easy  $5\diamond$  with the French defence cashing only one of their two aces, so Poland gained an IMP to level the scores. The next deal was more significant:

Board 8. Dealer West. None Vul.

<p><math>\spadesuit</math> J 10 8 5 2  <math>\heartsuit</math> 4  <math>\diamondsuit</math> J 4  <math>\clubsuit</math> Q 9 8 7 5</p>	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	<p><math>\spadesuit</math> A K Q  <math>\heartsuit</math> A J 7  <math>\diamondsuit</math> A Q 10 7 6 2  <math>\clubsuit</math> 6</p>	<p><math>\spadesuit</math> 7 3  <math>\heartsuit</math> Q 10 9 3  <math>\diamondsuit</math> K 9 3  <math>\clubsuit</math> A J 10 3</p>
N						
W E						
S						

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Holeksa	Carbonneaux	Weinhold	Puillet
Pass	Pass	1 $\clubsuit$	Pass
1 $\diamond$	Pass	3 $\diamond$	Pass
3 $\heartsuit$	Pass	4 $\heartsuit$	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Canonne	Grabowska	Robert	Sakowska
Pass	Pass	2 $\clubsuit$	Pass
2 $\diamond$	Pass	3 $\diamond$	Pass
3 $\heartsuit$	Pass	3 $\spadesuit$	Pass
3NT	Pass	4 $\clubsuit$	Pass
4 $\heartsuit$	Pass	4NT	Pass
5 $\clubsuit$	Pass	6 $\heartsuit$	Dble
All Pass			

Both Easts began with their strong bid and received a negative response. The French East seemed to be unable to stop until they reached a hopeless 6 $\heartsuit$  that was happily doubled by South. Three off was 500 to Poland.

In a way it was fortunate for France that the cards lay so badly that even the normal 4 $\heartsuit$  reached by Poland could not be made. Declarer slipped a trick in the play to go two off but Poland had still gained 9 IMPs.

This genuine slam came next:

Board 9. Dealer North. E/W Vul.

<p><math>\spadesuit</math> Q J 9 8 2  <math>\heartsuit</math> K 4 3  <math>\diamondsuit</math> 2  <math>\clubsuit</math> Q J 10 2</p>	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W E	S	<p><math>\spadesuit</math> 5 4  <math>\heartsuit</math> 9 8 2  <math>\diamondsuit</math> Q 4 3  <math>\clubsuit</math> K 7 6 5 3</p>	<p><math>\spadesuit</math> A 10 7 6 3  <math>\heartsuit</math> Q 5  <math>\diamondsuit</math> A J 10 8 7 5  <math>\clubsuit</math> -</p>
N						
W E						
S						

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Holeksa	Carbonneaux	Weinhold	Puillet
Pass	1 $\heartsuit$	Pass	1 $\spadesuit$
Pass	2 $\clubsuit$	Pass	3 $\diamond$
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Canonne	Grabowska	Robert	Sakowska
Pass	1 $\heartsuit$	Pass	1 $\spadesuit$
Pass	2 $\clubsuit$	Pass	3 $\diamond$
Pass	4 $\diamond$	Pass	4NT
Pass	5 $\diamond$	Pass	6 $\diamond$
All Pass			

The first four bids were the same (though it is surprising South does not respond in her longest suit first). Then South showed a strong 5-5 by the 3 $\diamond$  call. Carbonneaux signed off in 3NT and was allowed to play there for 12 tricks on a diamond lead.



Marion Canonne, France

duly reached 6♦.

West led ♣Q, taken by the ace with declarer discarding a small heart from hand (the queen might have been better). She unblocked the ♠K, ruffed a club, took the ♠A, and then ruffed a spade low. East over-ruffed with the queen. Had East played a trump at this point declarer would have needed to guess the heart finesse to dispose of her fifth spade, but East played another club and declarer claimed on a high cross-ruff. This was 10 IMPs to Poland who had moved into the gold medal position.

The last deal of the first half of the match proved a key one in the light of the overall result:

Board 10. Dealer East. All Vul.

♠ A Q J 10 3 2 ♥ K 10 ♦ K Q ♣ J 5 3	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white;">W</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S	♠ 6 4 ♥ Q 7 6 ♦ J 8 5 2 ♣ A 9 8 2	♠ K ♥ 9 8 4 3 ♦ A 10 6 4 ♣ K Q 6 4
N							
W							
E							
S							

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Holeksa	Carbonneaux	Weinhold	Puillet
1♠	Pass	Pass	1♦
Rdbl	2♥	All Pass	Dble

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Canonne	Grabowska	Robert	Sakowska
1♠	Pass	INT	1♦
4♠	All Pass		Pass

In the Open Room, the Polish E/W went very quietly, allowing the French to play in 2♥. This went one down for 100 to Poland.

The French E/W were much more ambitious, reaching 4♠. Declarer had two aces and a club to lose, could she dispose of the other losing club?

The defence began with a diamond to the ace and South, hoping her partner held ♣J, switched to ♣Q. This held so South was encouraged to play another. Declarer won the jack and her main problem seemed to be over. Still hoping to reach dummy for a trump finesse, declarer unblocked the diamond and then tried to sneak ♥10 through North. North rose with the ♥A and exited with a low heart to stick declarer back in her own hand.

Declarer now had the choice of laying down the ace of trumps or of getting to dummy with clubs 3-3. When she tried the latter, North ruffed to defeat the game. This was a massive swing as Poland gained 5 IMPs instead of losing 11.

In practice, had declarer played the ♥K instead of the ten she could hardly have gone wrong later. Even if North ducks and wins the next heart, any further lead from North allows declarer safely into dummy to lead a trump and see the good news.

Board 11 was flat but there was potential for France to recover IMPs on the next one:

Board 12. Dealer West. N/S Vul.

♠ A Q 7 2 ♥ 9 ♦ K J 5 4 ♣ A 8 4 2	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white;">W</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white;">E</td></tr> <tr><td style="background-color: #008000; color: white;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W	E	S	♠ K 8 6 ♥ K 10 6 3 ♦ Q 9 3 ♣ J 5 3	♠ J 9 4 ♥ A 2 ♦ 10 8 6 2 ♣ 10 9 7 6
N							
W							
E							
S							

Open Room

West	North	East	South
Holeksa	Carbonneaux	Weinhold	Puillet
1♥	Dble	INT(i)	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

(i) Constructive heart raise

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
Canonne	Grabowska	Robert	Sakowska
1♥	Dble	2NT(i)	Pass
4♥	All Pass		

(ii) Raise to at least 3♥

There was no difficulty for Poland in making 2♥, indeed it scored 170. So everything would hinge on whether Canonne could make her game, still affected perhaps by the earlier 4♠ where she discovered too late that the trump king was singleton onside.

Against her 4♥, North led a diamond won by the queen, a good start for declarer. Canonne correctly played a club next. (However if she had led a trump the defenders might not have got it right). North correctly won the first club (if she ducks, a second club sets up dummy's jack before the defence can establish their second spade trick.) North now found the winning spade switch. Well done, though one would have preferred her to try the queen rather than her actual choice of ace and another. However, her play was good enough. Declarer won, unblocked the club and tried to return to dummy with a trump. But South won and cashed the ♠J to defeat the game. This was 6 IMPs to Poland when it might have gone the other way. Grabowska's good defence had avoided a potential loss.

By now Poland had some leeway. Board 13 was an easy 3NT (only Deep Finesse finds the spade lead from East's A

6 3) for a flat board. On Board 14 both reached a tricky 3♠ with Poland going an extra one off; 2 IMPs to France.

There was more action on this deal:

Board 15. Dealer South. N/S Vul.

♠ Q 3 ♥ K 9 ♦ J 8 7 6 4 3 ♣ 10 4 2	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W      E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W      E	S	♠ A K 10 8 7 5 ♥ A 7 4 2 ♦ – ♣ Q 6 5	♠ 6 4 2 ♥ J 10 5 ♦ K Q 10 9 2 ♣ J 8
N						
W      E						
S						

## Three Bridge Problems

by Chris Dixon

### 1 The Farmer

Travelling through Transylvania a farmer arrives at a rickety bridge which he must cross. He has with him his dog, a goose, and a sack of corn. The bridge can only support him with one of these three items so he has to make several crossings to get across with everything. The dog would attack the goose if they were left alone and the goose would eat the corn if unsupervised. How can he get across with everything safe?

### 2 Against the Clock

A family of four arrives in the dead of night at the same bridge. It is pitch dark but they have a lamp. The bridge will only support two of them at a time and they must carry the lamp for safety. Dad, who is slow, will take 10 minutes to cross. Mum can do it in 5. Jack can race across in 1 minute and his sister Pamela in 2 minutes. The lamp has enough oil to provide light for just 18 minutes. Can the family get across before the lamp goes out?

### 3 The Castle

A beautiful, but forgetful, maiden arrives at the moat of Dracula's castle over which there are two bridges side by side. One leads to safety, the other to the dungeon of the dreaded Vlad Drac, the Impaler. Close by is a native Transylvanian man who knows which bridge is safe. The maiden, who has studied the local folklore, knows that Transylvanian men always lie and the women are always truthful. Or is it the other way round? She can ask this man only one question but knows that she will just get a yes or no answer. She speaks the local language fluently apart from one minor problem. The words for 'yes' and 'no' in Transylvanian are 'pova' and 'tisha' but the poor girl cannot remember which is which. What question should she ask to ensure her safety?

Solutions on Page 22.

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Holeksa</i>	<i>Carbonneaux</i>	<i>Weinhold</i>	<i>Puillet</i>
Pass	1♣	1♠	Pass
Pass	Dble	2♥	3♦
Pass	Pass	Dble	All Pass

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Canonne</i>	<i>Grabowska</i>	<i>Robert</i>	<i>Sakowska</i>
Pass	2♣	2♠	Pass
			All Pass

One can say that Puillet was unlucky to run into a 6-0 trump break. North could easily have had more diamonds and fewer hearts, or the suit could often be 4-2.

Declarer began the trump suit by running the ten through West so the partscore went only two light. But this was 500 to Poland against 140 for France in the Closed Room and a further 8 IMPs to Poland. It was looking like Poland's championship.

French hopes were further diminished when Board 16 was flat in INT-2 and Board 17 was only 1 IMP to France on a dull partscore. Poland led 51-15, i.e. a margin of 36, 23 more than the minimum needed.

French supporters still had something to cheer:

Board 18. Dealer East. N/S Vul.

♠ J 8 7 ♥ A J ♦ Q 10 4 2 ♣ A J 10 7	<table style="border: 1px solid black; width: 80px; height: 80px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W      E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W      E	S	♠ 9 5 4 ♥ Q 10 7 ♦ J 7 5 ♣ K 9 4 2 ♠ Q 3 2 ♥ 8 4 ♦ K 9 6 3 ♣ Q 8 6 5	♠ A K 10 6 ♥ K 9 6 5 3 2 ♦ A 8 ♣ 3
N						
W      E						
S						

Open Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Holeksa</i>	<i>Carbonneaux</i>	<i>Weinhold</i>	<i>Puillet</i>
Pass	2♥	Pass	1♥
All Pass			4♥

Closed Room

West	North	East	South
<i>Canonne</i>	<i>Grabowska</i>	<i>Robert</i>	<i>Sakowska</i>
Dble	2♥	Pass	1♥
Pass	3♥	All Pass	3♦

Sakowska took an unusually pessimistic view of the South cards. The lead to 3♥ was a spade. When West took the ♣A she played another spade. That not only took care of the defensive spade trick it also gave declarer time to reach dummy

to dispose of the losing diamond; 11 tricks and 200 to Poland.

Could the defence do better in the Open Room, where it mattered more, France being in game?

West found the best lead of a low diamond and East went into the tank. It was a horrible decision. Declarer could have A10 doubleton it which case it might be right to play the king.

In practice, if East does play the king, declarer would make the game. Declarer must play a minor-suit card next and West is caught in a Morton's Fork. If she cashes both minor-suit winners dummy has two winners set up to dispose of two losing spades from hand.

So it was essential for East to put in the  $\diamond 9$  at trick one. The longer she thought the more the stress must have grown for the card she eventually chose to play was the six! Declarer gratefully won the eight and played three rounds of spades. Later she cleared trumps and claimed her game. France had gained 10 IMPs and Poland's cushion was down to 13 IMPs with two boards to play.

Board 19 effectively settled matters when Poland stopped safely in  $2\diamond$  for +130, whereas France reached  $4\diamond$  and went off when declarer missed the fact that she could ruff high to ensure her partscore. The only trump outstanding was the five and the French declarer carelessly ruffed with the four and was over-ruffed to lose 5 IMPs unnecessarily.

The final board had the potential for a big swing to France but both tables missed 3NT and the swing was only 6 IMPs to France for making a partscore at both tables.

Poland had won the match 55-32 in IMPs, or 20-10 in VPs and had retained the title they won two years ago in Lido di Jesolo. To see how close it was, had the swing on board 10 or 12 gone the other way we would be looking at new champions.

## Solutions to Three Bridge Problems

### 1 The Farmer

The farmer first crosses with the goose. Leaving the goose alone on the far side he then returns to collect the dog. He must then go back with the goose to pick up the sack of corn. He crosses with the corn, again leaving the goose alone. Finally he returns to get the goose and makes his last crossing.

### 2 Against the Clock

The family can manage the crossing in 17 minutes. Jack and Pamela cross first (2 minutes). Jack returns (1 minute) and gives the lamp to his parents who cross together (10 minutes). They give the lamp to Pamela who goes back (2 minutes) to fetch her brother and they make the final crossing together (2 minutes).

### 3 The Castle

Pointing at one of the bridges, the maiden can ask the following question. "If I were to ask a Transylvanian woman if this bridge leads to safety would she answer 'pova'?" If the reply is 'Tisha', the maiden will know that the indicated bridge is safe. If the answer is 'Pova' she knows she must cross by the other bridge. Our beautiful maiden will be safe but she will still not know who lies and who tells the truth, neither will she know the meanings of 'pova' and 'tisha'.

## Today in History - July 14th



**1789:** Bastille stormed  
On 14 July 1789, militant Parisian workers storm and dismantle the Bastille, a royal fortress in Paris. Originally constructed in the 14th century, the

Bastille was first used as a state prison in the 17th century. Although the average annual number of prisoners was only about 40, the Bastille came to symbolize the tyranny of the Bourbon monarchs. On the morning of 14 July 1789, when only seven prisoners were being held, a mob descended on the Bastille and demanded the arms and munitions stored there. When the prison governor refused, the people stormed the fortress and freed the prisoners. This dramatic action signalled the beginning of the French Revolution, a three-year reign of terror and political turmoil in which King Louis XVI was overthrown and roughly 1,000 people, including the king and his wife Marie Antoinette, were sent to the guillotine. The Bastille was demolished during the Revolution. Today, 14 July, Bastille Day, is celebrated as a national holiday in France.

**1933:** The Nazi party abolishes all other political parties in Germany.

**1090:** During the first Crusade, Christian knights from Europe capture Jerusalem after the end of a seven-week siege.

## Past Play Problem No. 5 Solution

How should West play  $6\diamond$ ? North leads a spade.

♠ A K 6 2

♥ A 10 4

♦ A Q J 8

♣ Q 5



♠ 4

♥ K J 6 3

♦ K 9 2

♣ A 8 7 6 3

In the 1989 World Junior Championships, the Australian declarer (I did not record the name) won, ruffed a spade, led a heart to the ten which held, ruffed another spade, unblocked the king of trumps, returned to the  $\heartsuit A$  and drew trumps (which broke 4-2). This line can work even if the heart finesse loses but you may have to guess whether to play for South to have the ten of trumps or for it to drop. You do best to have ruffed the spade with the nine of trumps. If North wins the heart and plays a trump you can happily win in the West hand, ruff another spade high, return to the  $\heartsuit A$  to draw trumps and later discard your club on the fourth heart.

These problems are taken from a new book published this month by Masterpoint Press with selections from Bridge Magazine's Problem Corner by Patrick Jourdain.